

From: Michael Christiansen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:51am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am taking the time to add my voice in protest to the proposed settlement of the DOJ's action against Microsoft. Briefly, I am disturbed that no real action is being taken to correct or constrain the monopoly that Microsoft has illegally used to build and maintain its near-total domination of the personal computer industry.

I for one felt that the original judgment breaking Microsoft into two or more separate business entities was a workable solution. So long as sales of the operating systems can be tied to sales of applications and services (eg Office and IIS), Microsoft will continue to dominate this industry. Microsoft's operating systems must be limited to basic services upon which new products and services can be built. An operating systems provider should not be allowed to develop or market products and services as it has an unfair advantage. The operating system provider has access to the underlying code and developers (special knowledge of the operating system), and it is able to offset the cost of developing new products and services with revenues derived from operating systems sales.

The current solution does not address any of these concerns and permits Microsoft to continue to dominate an important sector of our economy. I feel confident that if Microsoft were properly constrained, they would commit to building a quality operating system that the rest of the world could use to base new ideas and inventions upon. As it stands, the monopoly that Microsoft yields like a club will continue to stifle the innovation that they are so vocal about promoting.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Michael Christiansen
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